

Mr. Millan continues to serve the community by maintaining memberships on many committees and boards. From the Boy Scouts of America and the Harrison PTA, to Club Espana and Casa Galicia, Mr. Millan has solidified his position in the community as a youth advocate and Hispanic Leader.

And his efforts have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Millan has won numerous awards including the Award of Honor Al Merito for Commitment to the Hispanic Community and awards of support from the Uruguayan, Portuguese, and Equatorian communities.

In addition to the leadership and support Mr. Millan has provided to the Latinos of Harrison, he has also served the larger community through his environmental concerns. Acting as Chairman to a number of environmentally conscious organizations such as Clean Communities, the Beautification Committee, and the Brownfields Committee, Mr. Millan helped shine a light on environmental issues both in the 13th District as well as the state of New Jersey.

These two men exemplify leadership and dedication to both the Hispanic Community and the community at large. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and their incredible example as public servants, I am very happy to honor these individuals for their achievements. I salute and congratulate both of them on their extraordinary accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL DIRNBERGER OF ORAN, MO: SECOND PLACE NATIONAL WINNER IN THE VFW 1999 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 28, 1999, the Veterans of Foreign Wars announced that Daniel Dirnberger, a senior at Oran High School in Scott County, Missouri, was the second place National winner of the "1999 Voice of Democracy Program." Daniel was sponsored by Morley VFW Post 5368 and its Ladies Auxiliary. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dirnberger, and he plans on attending Southeast Missouri University next school year.

Daniel's essay, entitled "My Service to America," captures the very essence of what it means to be an American. In a self-governing nation such as ours, each and everyone of us serves our country when we "simply be the best we can be, fight the good fight, and be someone who is strong and proud to call themselves an American. We do that and everything that our elders bled, fought, and died for will be truly honored." I have enclosed a copy of Daniel's essay for the record. I hope that my colleagues will take a few minutes to read his words, and to share his essay with young people in their districts. Daniel exemplifies the energy, the optimism, and the dedication to country that compelled our Founding Fathers in their drive to create one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Daniel Dirnberger)

As I stood in the darkness of the theater watching the end of the war movie "Saving Private Ryan" my eyes welled up with tears as the older Private Ryan stood at the grave of his friend. This scene made me think about how much these brave men and women have had to suffer and sacrifice so that our freedom may endure to this day. From where I stood I could see many of the reactions of the people in the audience. Some wept, others held their heads low, and still others seem so shocked that emotional reaction was impossible for them to express. What attracted my attention, however, was the reaction of the war veterans who had come to see the movie that day.

The veterans sat in a group on the top row. None of them had shown any emotion during the movie until Private Ryan saluted the grave of his friend. At that moment the entire group of veterans stood up silently. Each one took off his hat, and all bowed their heads. This simple, quiet act touched me deeply and almost drove me to tears. It filled me with a deep sense of pride and admiration for these men and women who had endured so much for our country.

As I walked out of the theater I felt ashamed. These people have given so much and I have given so little. Then I began to think about my service to America, what was I doing to try and make this country a better place? I could not think of any major task that I had accomplished to make me worthy of the freedom that was given to me. Then I thought of a very different service that I had been performing since I was young. I have always tried to do well in school, be an upright citizen, and obey the laws but these things were so minor, so insignificant that they could not possibly matter in this big country of ours.

I know now that I was wrong about these small services to America. These services are not insignificant: they are the most important services that we as Americans today can do for our country. Just think what would happen if everyone tried just a little harder to do better, work together, and be the best they can be. Our country would be just a little bit better place to live and work. There are the pessimists who say that this view is nothing but a utopian philosophy that can never come true but these people have miscalculated their predictions of the future. They have forgotten about the power of the human spirit. This power can overcome any obstacle or challenge that is presented to it. All the spirit needs is a catalyst to push it on.

Too many Americans have lost their faith in the human spirit. The media's negative news and the magazines slanderous articles break down the structure of society. These things lead our entire society to believe that the world is a horrible place filled with the monsters that used to haunt us as children. I believe that the human spirit can be reborn. If we all do our part or if even just a few of us do a little, the human spirit will shine through the negativity that surrounds us and we can defeat the monsters that the media has led us to believe exist in our society.

Your service to America can be large or small, depending on the type of person you are. It does not take much to help your country or another person. Voting, volunteering, or simply picking up a piece of trash on the ground can help all of us. Don't say you don't have enough time to do something good and helpful. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were

given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein. (H. Jackson Brown, Jr.) Remember, if you don't do it, you'll never know what would have happened if you had done it.

My service to America and my suggestions may seem small but in reality they are larger than you can imagine. By doing these little things we are contributing to a larger body of people who, like me, believe that the human spirit is the most powerful thing of all once it is driven on. The war today my friends is not on the battlefield of a foreign country but on the very land or our own country. My service, indeed all our services, to America is simply to be the best we can be, to fight the good fight, and be someone who is strong and proud to call themselves an American. We do that and everything that our elders bled, fought, and died for will truly be honored. We will be one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!

TRIBUTE TO NICK MADDOX ON WINNING ASSOCIATED PRESS PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR NORTH CAROLINA

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding student-athlete from North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. Nick Maddox, a senior at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, North Carolina, has proved through his play on the field that he is one of the top tailbacks in the country.

For the past two years, Nick Maddox has been honored with many awards for his athletic talents, including: Parade All-American and Associated Press Player of the Year for North Carolina. Mr. Maddox demonstrated that with a great deal of hard work, dedication to his teammates, and a strong sense of commitment, you can realize your dreams.

Mr. Maddox has been humble in the spotlight, giving credit to his fellow teammates and coaches. The A.L. Brown High School Wonders finished the 1998 football season with an undefeated regular season with a record of 11-0 and made it to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association division AAA football playoffs.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Maddox had 45 total touchdowns while rushing for 2,574 yards last season. Maddox finished his high-school career with more than 6,600 rushing yards and a state record 114 touchdowns. Mr. Maddox will be continuing his football career in the Atlantic Coast Conference at Florida State University.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Nick Maddox for his accomplishments on and off the field. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to an outstanding student-athlete.